

PROJECT ABSTRACT

The Arizona Health Communities Program will impact underserved racial and ethnic communities that have health inequities and high rates of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and related conditions such as overweight/obesity. Policy, systems, and environmental approaches will be used in these communities. The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), Arizona Health Disparities Center (AHDC) proposes to provide technical assistance in Direct Action Organizing to achieve the following activities: implement a community action plan; conduct a community needs assessment, local public health assessment, community themes and strengths assessment, forces of change assessment; develop an action plan; and evaluate project.

In the first two years, the AHDC will provide direction, coordination, and program specific technical assistance to the community in partnership with the ADHS Bureau of Tobacco and Chronic Diseases (BTCDD) and will work with four communities. The communities will be chosen based on need and health disparate populations (African American, American Indian, Latino, and Asian Pacific Islander). Staff will work with these communities to identify and address policy, systems, and/or environmental changes by 1) developing and implementing a community action plan, 2) providing trainings to strength and build capacity, 3) building partnerships with decision- and policymakers, and 4) assisting in the development of linguistically and culturally appropriate programs and materials.

The community action plan, assessments, and action plans will be coordinated by the AHDC and will facilitate the implementation of the action plans during years 3-5 of the grant. The AHDC will also ensure the evaluation process is community-driven in all aspects of the process from development to dissemination of the results during years 6-7 of the grant. The AHDC expects to see and document a reduction in chronic disease-related health disparities to achieve health equity improvements in Arizona.